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Family Miscellany.

For the Principia.
OUR COUNTRY.O, where is the spirit our fathers possessed,
That made us a Nation so great and so blest?
O, where is the firmness, true valor and might,
Which then fought our battles of Freedom and Right?They asked and received their strength from on High—
They fought as determined to conquer or die.
Their numbers were few and their resources small,
Yet freely, for LIBERTY, sacrificed all.They spurned the oppressor who dared to invade,
With menace and insult, the homes they had made;
Gained true Independence from tyrannous claim—
A free, happy country—a time-honored name.And how have we cherished the heritage fair,
The dearly-bought blessings as free as the air?
We've tampered with democracy, trifled with sin,
And let the old demon, Rebellion, come in.Our country stands bleeding at every pore,
With Liberty fallen—al! drenched in gore,
Our proud flag insulted, and trailed in the dust,
Our brave ones are fallen—avenge them, we must!Foul minions of slavery stalk through the land,
And tauntingly raise their traitorous hand,
To stab the fair Mother who gave them their birth—
The country that nourished them—best on the earth.Not rivers of water can serve, even now,
To wash the foul blood-stains from off her pure brow.
O loyal men, patriots, valiant and strong,
Crush now the vile monster that does her such wrong!If to wipe out oppression and bid slavery cease,
We must break the oppressors, or never have peace.
Then break them, and crush them, destroy them! what boots
It to loy of the branches and leave all the roots?It will spring up again, and flourish the more,
For clipping and crushing—such feints we ignore.
God will not be mocked. The work is not complete
With a seeming victory still under our feet!Our wives and our children cry out into God,
To avenge the deep wrongs of a people down-trod.
O, God of our fathers! Then hearest the prayer
Of widows and orphans wrung out by despair!The day of the Lord drench night—in at hand—
The smoke of His wrath, like a cloud, fills the land.
He will be avenged with fire and with sword,
For "vengeance is mine"—"I'll repay"—saith the Lord.Be thou, God of battles, our Leader, and smite,
With the rod of thy vengeance, the oppressors of right.
Their name and their memory blot from the land,
So Freedom and Justice shall reign, hand in hand!

ITALIAN HYMN.

Ye who in bondage pine,
Shut out from light and air,
Bereft of hope:
Whose limbs are worn with chains,
Whose tears bedew our plains,
Whose blood our glory stains,
In gloom who grope—
Shout! for the hour dawns bright
That gives you liberty!And from the dust,
So long your vile emblem,
Uprising, take your place
Among earth's noblest race—
The right and just!The night—the long, long night
Of infancy and slight,
Shame and disgrace,
And slavery worse than e'er
Homo's serfs were doomed to bear,
Bloody beyond compare—
Receives space!Lorn Africa, once more,
As proudly as of old,
Shall yet be seen
Foremost of all the earth
In dignity, beauty, worth—
By dignity of birth,
A peerless Queen!Speed, speed the hour, O Lord!
Speak! at thy word,
Fetters shall fall
From every limb—the strong
No more the weak shall wrong,
But Liberty's sweet song
Be sung by all.

FATE.

From the German of Umland.

Yes, Fate! I comprehend thee well:
My happiness is not earth's;
It blooms in quietude alone:
Thou sendest me enough of grief,
And givest for every pain, a song.

For the Principia.

THE CHILDREN OF THE COVENANT,
OR, THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY.

BY MRS. MARIA GODDARD FROST.

CHAPTER XXI.

CONCLUSION.

"So it seems your friend Stanley talks of leaving college," said one of the professors, to young Williams, as they met upon the grounds that surrounded the halls of science. "We shall all regret it very much; he is one of our best young men. Not as brilliant as some, but so perfectly clear and sound; he has few equals."

"He fears he may be obliged to leave, for a time. His father's health is failing, and he needs the pecuniary aid he has hitherto furnished his son."

"So that is it?" said a noble looking fellow, who was sauntering in the shade of the grand old trees that skirted the broad avenues. "Well, I believe I owe Stanley a grudge. I once vowed vengeance upon him."

"How is that, Carter?" asked his teacher, turning upon him, with a look of surprise. "I thought that he had been to you as a ministering spirit."

"So indeed he has. But for him, I might have been a ruined man, long ere this. I tremble now, when I think of the brink upon which I stood. But there was a time, when from my soul, I hated, loathed, and planned to injure him. Every effort failed, and was overruled by God for his good, and my own conviction."

The day after this conversation, Clarence found an anonymous communication within his desk, containing a hundred dollar note. It was not difficult to trace it to its source, as we may see from the following brief letter that Clarence writes to his parents.

My Dearest Friends,
The course of duty seemed so plain to me, yesterday, that I had fully decided, with your leave, to abandon my studies. It was with deep regret, I acknowledge, for my plans for future usefulness were very dear to my heart. The ways of God were hidden in obscurity, and my own pathway hedged, beyond the present emergency. At this crisis, pecuniary aid has come to me from a very unexpected source, so that, at present, I shall not be obliged to draw upon your generosity. You will now be able to travel for your health, while I prosecute my studies. The "friend in need," is, I strongly suspect, my old tormentor, Robert Carter, who I rejoice so far is a noble Christian, and with his immense fortune will doubtless do great good.

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The lovely Elie, of whom I have so often spoken, is a cousin of Carter's and has done much toward drawing him from the fascinations of evil company. I rejoice that Mabel has made her acquaintance.

Truly dear mother, there is hope yet for our lost Frank, if one so reckless, and so surrounded by temptation as Robert Carter, is saved. Let us hope on, hope ever!

Your affectionate son,
Clarence Stanley.

This letter brought relief to the parsonage, and Clarence was permitted to continue his preparation for the work of Christian missions.

About this time, a circumstance occurred to arouse Mabel from her worldliness. It was the sudden and sorrowful death of Leila Winthers.

She had continued her gay career, in spite of failing health, and one evening, as she had just completed an elaborate toilette for the ball-room, was taken with a severe hemorrhage at the lungs, and expired in a few moments.

"Let us lay her out, just as she is, mother; nothing could be more beautiful," said Carrie, after the first shock was over. They did so, and the impression upon the young and thoughtless was very great.

Mabel now realized, more fully, the importance of speedy preparation for eternity. She saw the vanity and emptiness of a life of pleasure, and, from that eventful night, was a changed being. She had taken the stand, at last, to consecrate all to God, and regretted that she had not done so earlier.

When Robert Carter finished his college studies he called at Elmwood parsonage to ask Mabel to share his beautiful mansion on the lake shore.

"I do not wish to live for myself," she replied, "and I fear your great wealth might prove a temptation."

"There is another view which I beg you will take, Mabel, before you settle the question. My wealth will permit you to enlarge the sphere of your benevolent activities. I could not ask one to join me with a lower aim than you express." The effect of this argument may be imagined, from the fact that a few weeks later, a fine coach was seen rolling away from the parsonage, with two very bright young faces, on the seat opposite to Mr. and Mrs. Stanley.

Three years later, Clarence and Elie set sail for the islands of the sea.

Elmwood now looked for a younger and stronger pastor than the time-worn Mr. Stanley, and found it in young Williams, the friend of Clarence, who was now prepared to enter the field.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley still remained in the old parsonage, which their son-in-law purchased, preferring it to the princely home of Mabel, which they were repeatedly urged to share.

From this time, Mr. Stanley's health failed steadily. "O, that I could once more look upon my son Frank," was the language of his daily, hourly prayer. "I can but feel that he is saved, Emily. My faith and hope in God is firm; but I do long to embrace him, once more."

Mrs. Stanley wept; she felt that her husband could not last many more weeks, and she knew the improbability of Frank's return, even if he were living.

Miss Densy, who was very old and infirm, was now staying a few days at the parsonage. "Did you wish for anything, Miss Densy?" I thought I heard you call," said Mrs. Stanley, as she came with swollen eyes, toward the bed-side.

"No, no! I want nothing but a dream. I thought that boy had come home. It's a dreadful disappointment now, to wake up, and find 'taint so.'"

Dreaming of Frank was so common with Mrs. Stanley, that she made no comment, but begged old Densy to get all the rest she could, and left her, for the night.

In the morning, it was evident that some one had been through the house; the back door was open, and a strange overcoat was hanging up in the kitchen. Mrs. Stanley was the first to perceive this, as she rose at an early hour, to prepare some gruel for her husband. She thought she heard a slight sound from the front part of the house.

Miss Densy slept soundly in the spare bedroom, and Mr. Stanley was too feeble to be disturbed at such a moment. With some agitation, Mrs. Stanley opened the parlor door, and there, stretched out upon the sofa, was a fine, manly form. Could it be Frank?

There was no time for conjecture, he was on his feet in an instant. "Mother, dearest mother! I have waited for your footsteps."

"God bless you, my son!"

"He has blessed me, dear mother, for I have returned to find you living. It is more than I deserve!"

"Have you suffered much, my poor boy?"

"For many years I have been a wanderer, without resting place, but at last a Bible fell into my hands. I loved to read it, because it savored so much of home, and seemed to bring you so near. Thus I was led, dear mother, to find a Heavenly Parent."

"O, Frank, my son, this is too good! I fear I shall wake to find it all a dream."

"There is not anything too good for you, mother. I had hoped to make you rich on my return, but I have brought but little silver or gold, and I know full well that a heart of penitence will be deemed, by you, more valuable."

"I must break this good news carefully to your father, who is very weak."

"Will he receive me?"

"Receive you, Frank? O, most thankfully! His last words to me were of you!"

"The greatest boon I crave is your forgiveness."

"You have it, fully and freely, my child."

"What on earth! I thought I heard voices, sister!" said Densy, rubbing her dim old eyes. "It sounded like Frank; I've dreamed it over, again."

"No, Densy, it is no dream. Frank has indeed returned. Let us rejoice together."

Mrs. Stanley feared her husband would be overcome by the excitement of his son's sudden appearance, but he received the tidings with great calmness. "The Lord has answered my prayer," were his first words.

"What a precious token of His love," he added, as he looked upon the face and form of his long-lost son.

From this hour, Mr. Stanley's health steadily improved, and, contrary to the expectations of his physicians and friends, he lived to see the beautiful evidence of Frank's Christian hope, in years of holy and consistent life.

Poor Mrs. Winthers was all broken down

by Leila's sudden and awful death. But when she heard of Frank's return, of his changed character, and Mabel's Christian activities, she was heard to say in a tone of solemn earnestness,

"Ah! I can see my mistake, now! I did not deem God's promises for my children, as I might. I could not labor for them as I ought. Mr. Stanley's great faith, united with untiring labor and prayer, has been the salvation of her household!"

RULES OF CRITICISM.

SMOOTHNESS OF DICTION.

It is a law of literary criticism, particularly of poetry, that the style should correspond with the subject. If beautiful scenery is to be described, or if pleasing emotions are to be expressed and excited, then the language should be beautiful, its flow easy, and its effect pleasing. But if rough scenes are to be described, or if the passions are to be aroused, then corresponding language is to be employed, and the words so put together as to startle rather than soothe. The very sound as well as the meaning of words are to be studied and selected by the skillful orator or poet, that even a hearer ignorant of the language would be affected by it, and his nerves either braced up for action, or relaxed for repose, according to the object the speaker or writer has in view. Collins' ode on the passions, and Pope's Essay on criticism, will furnish rules of composition in accordance with what we have here suggested, and will furnish illustrations of our meaning.

These rules of criticism may guide us, in our judgment of the style to be employed by Christian speakers and writers, in order to effect the proper objects of their labors. If it be so, that in the proper discharge of their duties they have nothing to present but the beautiful and pleasing, if they have no voice to reprove, no claims to denounce, no warnings to utter, if all they have to do, is to administer consolations, to present promises indiscriminately, to men of all characters, to assist everybody in cherishing hopes of everlasting felicity in the world to come, whatever courses they may pursue in this present world—if their proper business is to "prophesy smooth things," and nothing else, then a smooth pleasing style is the only one they need to employ. The thunders of Sinai may all be hushed. If there are no enemies to meet and to conquer, if there be no arduous work before them, requiring them to brace up their energies for its accomplishment, then the clarion and the trumpet may be laid aside, and the soft lute may hush the sacramental host to repose.

From The Child at Home.

LITTLE THINGS.

Just across the street from the Capitol grounds at Washington, there stood, a few years ago, a row of rough sheds, in which were being wrought the statues which were designed to adorn the Capitol. There were some casts which had not been put into stone, and some rough blocks of marble which had been chiseled so as to show merely the outline of what they were to be.

A party of visitors were one day led through the rooms, and, beginning with these rough figures, were shown others, in more and more advanced stages, until they came to the most skillful artist at work upon one designed for a fountain. It was a female figure, hardly finished. She was represented sitting upon a grassy bank, and holding in one hand a shell, from which the water was to gush. The attitude and expression were so lifelike, that it might have seemed complete in contrast with the rest, but this artist had made the shell very rough, and the water was to gush from it.

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a kind of vegetable garden for the Confederates; and if we will accept their terms of peace, we shall have permission to peddle among them our surplus corn and potatoes! And lo, there are men among us who say, "Go to, now; let us accept the offer!" Yes, men among us who would kick the dust from the shoes of the assassin of the American Union, provided only it were gold dust! But a proverb says, "Dogs must eat;" and a man-spirited people will do anything for a piece of bread. Yet, if men will sell their manhood for pottage, the bargain may not be so bad a one, after all; for the manhood that offers itself in the market ought not to bring a very high price. It is fitting that dogs should sell "dog cheap." ROBERT CARTER, of Richmond, said to a Federal prisoner, that the Confederates regarded their Northern sympathizers as "curs," but they were willing to let them do their work.

You will see I am obliged to set down among the hostile and dangerous elements—the anti-democratic forces—in the Republic, every pretence of a public virtue, every willingness to identify the nation's safety with the fortunes of some pet General—be it Fremont, McClellan, or no matter who—as if this whole country, with all its mighty interests, were only one vast picture-frame, and on purpose show off one man's name, and every body is a Caesar, an aspirant, and selfish man, who forgets the Republic, and only remembers himself, watching ever for an opportunity to vault to higher position.

At last, we must learn the lesson of usefulness and true patriotism. We must be a better people, or lose the privileges of freedom. We must put ourselves in harmony with God, and we can have no good order upon earth. We must obey the laws of God, or fall into the lap of anarchy and misrule. We are enemies of the Republic till we become friends and brothers to each other. Be a good, true man, and you have become a pillar of the Government, and a guardian of liberty.

From The Child at Home.

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but poverty also. It is a remedy for all the ills that flesh is heir to.

Though this system is the best of any for the cure of complaints, its great superiority is as a prophylactic. If properly administered to a healthy subject, it will prevent all disease. The next neighbor to the writer of this, died at ninety-four, of old age. A few days before his death, in conversation with him, he asked him if he had ever consulted a physician. He replied that he never had.

"Were you ever sick?"

"No."

"Not a day?"

"Not an hour?"

"Were you never sick in your life?"

"No."

This man knew nothing of physiology; he had never practiced any system of dieting; but every day, Sundays and all, for more than eighty years, and generally, excepting Sundays, through the whole day, from before sunrise till after sunset, he had applied friction to the palms of his hands.—Scientific American.

WHAT IS A DARLING?—It is a dear little beaming girl who meets one on the doorstep; who